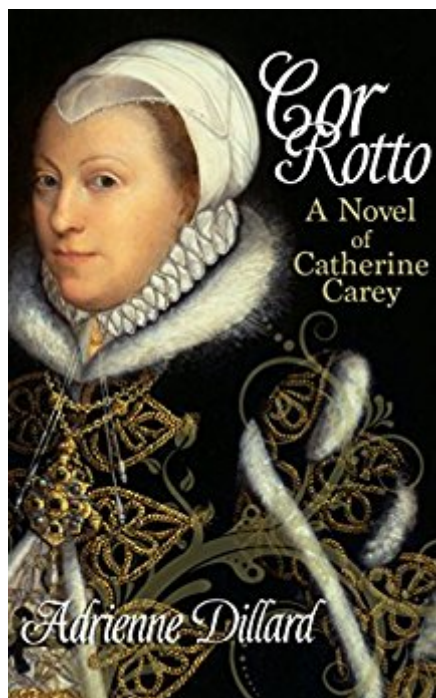


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# Cor Rotto: A Novel Of Catherine Carey



## Synopsis

The dream was always the same — the scaffold before me. I stared on in horror as the sword sliced my aunt's head from her swan-like neck. The executioner raised her severed head into the air by its long chestnut locks. The last thing I remembered before my world turned black was my own scream. Fifteen year-old Catherine Carey has been dreaming the same dream for three years, since the bloody execution of her aunt Queen Anne Boleyn. Her only comfort is that she and her family are safe in Calais, away from the intrigues of Henry VIII's court. But now Catherine has been chosen to serve Henry VIII's new wife, Queen Anne of Cleves. Just before she sets off for England, she learns the family secret: the true identity of her father, a man she considers to be a monster and a man she will shortly meet. This compelling novel tells the life story of a woman who survived being close to the crown and who became one of Queen Elizabeth I's closest confidantes.

**Author Interview** What makes your historical novel *Cor Rotto: A Novel of Catherine Carey* special? *Cor Rotto* was a novel seven years in the making. When I began researching this enigmatic woman, there were no books about her, fiction or otherwise, which is surprising because Catherine Carey is one of those women who appears in the households of several Tudor queens. She is the epitome of the perfect Tudor woman: fertile, devoted, and loyal. I think she was ignored for many years because she wasn't your "atypical" heroine. As I dug into Catherine's life, I found an incredible story, from an eyewitness to so many amazing events in Tudor history.

**Who was Catherine Carey?** Catherine's origins are the subject of debate even today. Catherine's mother, Mary Boleyn, had an affair with King Henry VIII long before sister, Anne Boleyn, came along — but was he Catherine's father? We don't know, and historians are still divided. Many years after her aunt and uncle were executed, Catherine Carey was invited to court to serve Henry VIII's fourth queen, Anne of Cleves. She went on to serve each consecutive queen, all while building a family of 14(!) children with her husband, Francis Knollys. After the death of Edward VI, Catherine and her family fled to the Low Countries to escape the religious persecution of Mary I. They returned to England when Catherine's cousin (or sister?), Elizabeth I, came to the throne. Catherine served Elizabeth I loyally until Catherine's early death in 1569. Catherine's many children went on to have very successful careers and families of their own. In fact, the current royal family can trace their ancestry back to Catherine! Why should readers give your historical fiction novels a try? Historical accuracy in fiction has always been important to me. That's why I spend years researching everything that goes into my novels. I work hard to vividly recreate the people and places of Tudor England while keeping my story grounded in the historical record. The goal of each of my novels is to shine a light on the hidden or maligned figures of the royal court.

*Cor Rotto* ebook

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## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Catherine is my 12th great-grandmother, and this is the first novel I've read about her. I've read about Mary, Anne and Lettice at length. I found myself captivated by her character and was completely drawn into the book immediately! I felt Dillard did a fantastic job for her first novel and I loved the fact that she ended the book by explaining not only her take on what events she believed to be true (for example, that Catherine was Henry's daughter), but also went on to note what she added in as fiction. I was sobbing at the end, but I think in large part that was because she is an ancestor. She also died at the age I am now, and I wish I knew exactly what it was that killed her (was it a specific fever, etc.). She died too young and was such a wonderful person. Thank you Adrienne Dillard!

I love reading about this time period & have read many books about Catherine's mother Mary

Boleyn. It was bittersweet for even noble ladies who served the queen to be separated from children & husbands at the queens whim. Amazing that she-Catherine bore 13 children & her & her husband were still so much in love. Great story!

I wasn't too sure if I was going to enjoy the book when I first started reading this book as the conversations between characters were jarringly modern in word and phrase and the book seemed like it was skimming over a lot of the historical events that were happening. Of course, if you were a lady in waiting to the queen, you probably were more concerned with events that only related to you and your family so once I had fixed the correct perspective in my head as to who was telling the story, the story was much easier to read. It seemed the marriage was all about absences, bedding, and off Francis would go again which was a bit irritating in the beginning but again, if you stop and realize there is not a lot of information about Catherine other than her name, family connections, work for the queen, and the fact she did bear SIXTEEN (yowza!) children, "meeting and mating" probably all they had time to do in their marriage! By the time I read the last page, I really was sad the story had ended. I applaud the author in her research and dedication to her subject. It has made me interested in Catherine and shouldn't that be the objective of any good writer...leaving the reader wanting more?????

Adrienne did an incredible job with this subject. I could not put this book down. She found a way to give life to all of the characters as well as create a connection between them and the reader. I would be interested in any book Ms. Dillard writes after reading this. I highly recommend Cor Rotto, ESPECIALLY if you enjoy reading about Tudor history. Wonderful job!

As an aficionado of much of the earlier English monarchies, I welcomed this book of one of the supporting players in that era. The facts support Catherine's love of family and loyalty to the royalty of her times. Paramount in much of that history, survival and wealth depended on connections at court and recognition by the monarch, hence a never-ending struggle of self-interest. Here, Catherine Carey is depicted as all-caring and loving, devoted or sympathetic to almost all who entered her life. Absent was any bite of intrigue or manipulation by her during her life and I find this uncharacteristic of that period. The dialogue was sweet to the point of saccharine (i.e. always the author's take on known facts), and for me this did not suit that period in history. So I found this novel to be essentially a love story based on limited facts, a pleasurable read but lacking the turmoil of those near power.

At last an historical novel that is well written, without bodices being ripped every 10 pages. It appears to be very well researched from the notes at the end- which shines through. The female characters are good - the male a bit 2D - but you are dealing with fleshing out and recreating REAL people - so good enough! Elizabeth I was a bit bland from my reading - but she was a side character to Catherine who shone through. I actually got a bit teary and the end - ALWAYS a good sign.

For those who've read the stories of Boleyn family members other than Anne, Queen of England, this novel gives a feeling of continuity, of completion. The primary character here is Catherine Carey, the child of Anne Boleyn's sister Mary and (most historians presume), King Henry VIII. While not publicly acknowledged by the king, Catherine is brought to court and is very much favored by Henry. Even after the execution of her aunt Anne, Catherine is called back to court and serves as a lady in waiting through several more of Henry's queens. Ultimately, she becomes a trusted confidant to her younger half sister, Queen Elizabeth. Throughout these upheavals, Catherine maintains a very loving marriage to a courtier chosen by her father, and the reader is both warmed and moved by that family life. This book is well written in terms of grammar, syntax, and historical context, and I look forward to finding and reading more of this author's work.

I found this to be a well written book. The author showed heart and soul, as well as a knowledge of the Tudor and Elizabethan period. Catherine and Francis were three dimensional characters, not just paper dolls reciting historical facts. Refreshingly, the dynamic between the women was as interesting as the love story. That is a rare quality.

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