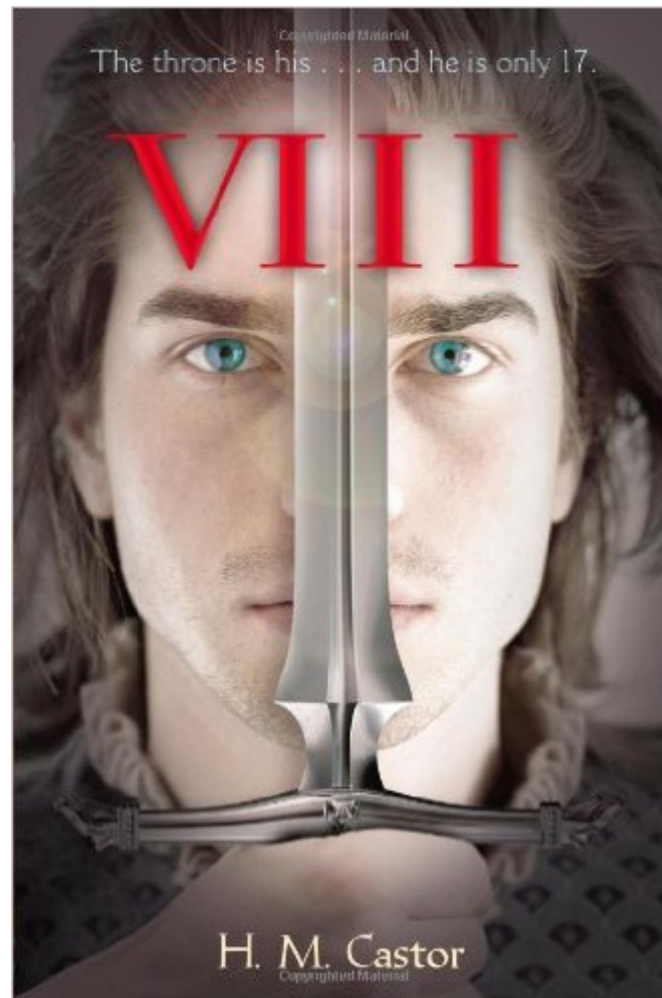


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# VIII



## Synopsis

>Hal is a young man of extraordinary talents, astonishing warrior skills, sharp intelligence, and a fierce sense of honor and virtue. He believes he is destined for greatness. His father wishes he would disappear. Haunted by the ghosts of his family's violent past, Hal embarks on a journey that leads him to absolute power and brings him face to face with his demons. History comes alive from the first page to the last in this fascinating, previously untold story of how a charismatic, athletic young man grew up to become the murderous, vengeful King Henry VIII.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 770L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 432 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (August 20, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1442474181

ISBN-13: 978-1442474185

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.5 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars See all reviews (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,193,907 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #64 in Books > Teens >

Historical Fiction > Biographical > European #170 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > European #391 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Medieval

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Source: Received an e-ARC through Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review. The Tudor period is one of my favorite times in history and once about which there is a plethora of material. And yet this look at Henry VIII from childhood to death still seemed unique enough to stand out and be worthy of a read. After finishing, I feel like I received a lot from this book. It is interesting to see how Henry's childhood shapes his future particularly with this first-person narrative guiding us through his life. Though he was born a second son, he does end up succeeding to the throne. He absorbs his father's lesson of having heirs to secure continuity but ignores the warning about practicing thriftiness as he pursues the crown of France. He sees the death of his beloved mother hurt his father but goes on to divorce or kill 2/3 of his wives. Henry is such a complicated, multifaceted

character-it is easy to see how he and his continue to enthrall us after all these centuries.As usual, Anne Boleyn is pretty much my favorite character. I just want to bring her to our present-I bet she could do great things when her worth isn't based on her ability to produce a son with a particular man. I adore her cunning and ambition and though this isn't my favorite version of Anne, I still enjoyed her.Some important historical events seemed to be missing to my mind: for instance his affairs with Bessie Blount, resulting in Henry Fitzroy, and Mary Boleyn before his romance with Anne. I think the former would have been especially useful to the narrative, which focuses in large parts on Henry's attempts to ensure the succession and to carve out an empire for his heir.

VIII by H.M CastorHardback: 399 pagesPublisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers - first print edition, UKLanguage: EnglishISBN-10: 144247419XISBN-13: 978-1442474192The book starts out with Henry VIII as a young boy being whisked away to the Tower of London while his father is defending his throne against an impersonator of one of the young princes that were lost in the Tower years before. It's a little awkward at first because the author writes the book in first person, and I am not used to reading large stories this way. It took a bit of getting used to. Also the book is aimed toward a younger audience, so the chapters can be extremely short. With a book this large, short chapters make for a very long read.Out of all the characters that Henry encounters throughout the book, it is his relationship with his father that truly stands out to me. At first, the relationship is almost non-existent, until his brother Arthur dies. Then he is brought to his father so that he can properly be groomed to rule as King someday. Henry envisions himself as King even before then, and feels that he is being given signs that he will be a King and God will pave a way for him. He has many different encounters with unnatural things, and some of them are quite scary even for the reader.As Henry prepares himself to sit on the throne in the event of his father's death someday, he gets ideas of how great it will be to be King of England as well as France. He anticipates being a conqueror and the people of England loving him for it. During his few conversations with his father, he is scolded for being so naive and lectured on what it is like to be a King, and the many responsibilities that he will have in doing so.

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